Payment of royalty to States

2391. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government has taken over mineral resrouces of States like Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Orissa etc.

(b) whether Government has received requests from these States for payment of ad valorem royalty and if so, action taken thereon;

(c) whether Government have revised the coal royalties after 1994; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Proposals from coal producing states including Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar were received for revision of rate of royalty on coal on ad valorem basis. A Study Group constituted by the Government to look into the issue of revision of rate of royalty considered the requests of the these State Governments as well as the views of other State Governments and coal consuming organisations who expressed themselves in favour of fixation of royalty on coal on tonnage basis. The said Study Group recommended revision of royalty rates on tonnage basis. The Central Government, while accepting the recommendation of the Study Group, revised royalty rates on different grades of coal which were notified in the Government Gazette on 16.8.2002.

(d) Question does not arise.

Measures to check bird hits around IAF bases

2392. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved a plan for cleaning environment in the cities having Indian Air Force bases to reduce the loss of aircraft due to bird hits; and

(b) if so, the bases where this cleaning is proposed to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Cleaning the environment around all Indian Air Force airfields in order to reduce the aircraft accidents on account of bird hits is a continuous process.

Showcasing of helicopters by HAL

2393. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that HAL made history for Indians by displaying a new generation desi-aircraft for the first time on western soil at the Paris Air Show in June this year;

(b) whether the multi-role all weather and terrain Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), Dhruv won the hearts of many customers with its very attractive price tag $ 5.5 million; and

(c) if so, what are the marketing proposals of this new helicopter in the export market?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Preliminary discussions have been held by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) with some potential customers. However, no exports of the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), Dhruv have yet taken place.

Function halls in Secunderabad Cantonment

2394. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many function halls are there in the Secunderabad cantonment area on lease;

(b) how much land each one of them has occupied; and

(c) how much land has been given to other persons on lease for running hotels etc. in the cantonment areas?